



USAID | UKRAINE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HEALTH



Photo by Oleksandr Golubov

A man warms his baby through skin-to-skin contact while his wife recovers from a C-section.

THE CHALLENGE

Almost 30% of Ukraine's population still lives below the poverty line. Social and economic realities and an overburdened health care system challenge Ukraine's ability to address rising rates of infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis (TB). Infant and maternal mortality rates (IMR and MMR), and abortion rates are high in comparison to countries in the region. Avian Flu remains a threat, with Ukraine a major poultry producer and migratory point for wild fowl.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Expand DOTS and DOTS-Plus approaches to decrease rates of TB infection and transmission of TB/HIV co-infection and MDR/XDR-TB.
- Improve mother and infant health services and outcomes.
- Reduce rates of abortion through increased use of modern contraceptives.
- Build awareness and capacity to prevent and respond to outbreaks of Avian Influenza.
- Address micronutrient deficiencies through policy advocacy on iodized salt and fortification of flour with folic acid.

OVERVIEW

As part of its commitment to investing in people, USAID is partnering with Ukraine to improve the overall health of Ukrainians by strengthening health standards and building systems to make Ukrainians better informed health consumers. The goal is to increase the availability of quality services and generate demand for these services. Concurrently, USAID supports development of a civil society that collaborates with government to expand access to services and ensure transparent health management.

OUR PROGRAMS

Tuberculosis Prevention and Control

Programs aim to 1) expand the quality and availability of WHO- recommended Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course (DOTS) approach in oblasts with a high TB burden; 2) build capacity to implement DOTS Plus programs for multi-drug resistant/extensively drug resistant TB; and 3) improve access to TB/HIV co-infection services. To enhance the sustainability of DOTS interventions, USAID assists with building a policy and legislative environment that reduces barriers to care and enhances access to DOTS and DOTS Plus programs.

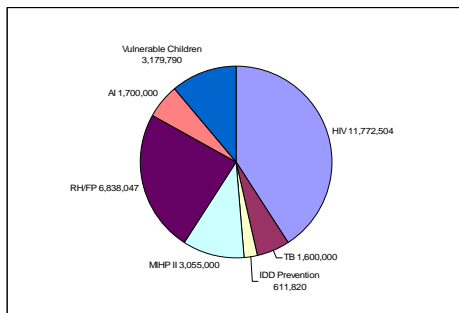
Maternal and Infant Health

Through partnerships with oblasts, USAID assistance aims to improve maternal and infant health services and outcomes through: the broad implementation of evidence-based interventions to strengthen perinatal practices and services; the dissemination of clinical guidelines and training of health professionals; the development of centers of excellence to serve as models for training and education; and the implementation of communications activities to increase awareness of effective birthing and childcare practices. At the national level, USAID assistance is also strengthening development of protocols and educational curricula on perinatal care for medical universities and institutes.

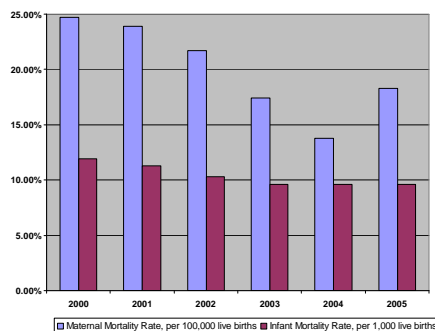
Reproductive Health/Family Planning

This initiative seeks to reduce high rates of abortion through increased use of modern contraceptive methods. Program activities make family planning/reproductive health services more widely available; educate the population about the benefits of family planning; and improve the quality of counseling provided both within public sector facilities and at pharmacies. Through an innovative public private sector partnership with pharmaceutical companies, the program has expanded access to a broader range of moderately priced methods in target sites. Finally, program support to Ministry of Health development of a Cabinet of Ministers-approved Reproductive Health of the Nation Program has increased the political commitment and funding for implementation of FP/RH activities nationwide, including procurement of contraceptives.

Current Health Programs (obligations FY 04-07)



Mother and Infant Mortality Rates



Implementing Partners

TB Prevention and Control: The World Health Organization (WHO), The Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH)

Mother and Infant Health: JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.

Reproductive Health/Family Planning: JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.

Avian Influenza: International Relief and Development, Inc. (IRD); Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI); Center for Ukrainian Reform Education.

For more information, please contact
**USAID/Ukraine Development Outreach
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 tel. (380 44) 537 4600 or visit
<http://ukraine.usaid.gov>

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Avian Influenza

Building on efforts initiated during the 2005 Avian Influenza outbreak USAID supports ongoing activities aimed at reducing transmission of animal-to-animal and animal-to-human transmission of Avian Influenza through: increasing knowledge of preventive behaviors; improving the capacity of health, veterinary, and emergency authorities to identify and respond to outbreaks; improving bio-security in poultry production settings; and strengthening AI awareness and preventive practices of border and customs services personnel.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Tuberculosis

- TB DOTS programs are being rolled out in eight oblasts in southern, eastern and central Ukraine. These regions include 40% of TB cases and the highest burdens of HIV infection in the country.
- More than 4,300 doctors have been trained in internationally recognized best practices for TB prevention and control.

Maternal and Infant Health Care

In project sites:

- Hypothermia in newborns decreased from 80% to nearly 1%.
- Neonatal mortality decreased by nearly 67% between 2002 and 2007.
- Normal deliveries have increased from 26% to nearly 75%.
- Cesarean sections have decreased from 42% to 26%.
- Increased partner attendance at delivery has reduced use of pain medication.

Nationally:

- Over 1,600 healthcare professionals have been trained in effective mother and infant care and infection control.
- More than 40 protocols on reproductive and maternal and infant health have been revised and disseminated through the Ministry of Health.

Reproductive Health/Family Planning:

- Adoption of new clinical protocols on FP/RH has reduced medical barriers to FP/RH care.
- Increased numbers of FP/RH service access points in target sites.
- Over 1,600 health workers and 1,000 pharmacy staff trained on modern contraception and counseling for informed choice.
- More than 50,000 people reached through educational and communications events designed to change FP/RH behaviors.
- Small grants awarded to 10 NGOs for FP/RH advocacy work.

Avian Flu:

- Over 1 million AI information flyers and posters distributed to raise awareness.
- Oblast-level radio and television public service announcements (PSAs) and radio and television informational programs have reached more than 10 million people.
- 7,000 national and regional journalists trained on AI, resulting in the publication of over 3,000 articles in national and regional newspapers.
- Over 77,500 national and regional health, veterinary, government and civil society leaders trained in AI prevention and response.
- Over \$180,000 in laboratory reagents, testing equipment and personal protective equipment procured and delivered.